Shortage of Pilots with national carriers

*137. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national air carriers are at present facing shortage of pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on 30th June, 2005, company-wise;

(c) how these companies propose to fill their existing vacancies of pilots; and

(d) what is Government's planning to increase recruitment and training of the pilots so as to ensure that there would be no shortage of pilots in India by the end of this decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At present, Air India (including Air India Express) has a shortage of 118 pilots, whereas Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Indian Airlines has a shortage of 40 pilots.

(c) Air India/Alliance Air are in the process of recruiting additional pilots to fill up the vacancies through open advertisements in leading newspapers, campus recruitment from IGRUA at frequent intervals and foreign recruitment agencies.

(d) To overcome the shortage of Pilots, following steps have been taken by the Government:-

1. Capacity of IGRUA is being increased and the training facilities being upgraded to train more pilots.
2. Additional flying training institute is being set up by Government at Gondia, Maharashtra.
3. Total flying requirement for issue of Commercial Pilot's Licence(CPL) has been reduced from 250 hrs. to 200 hrs.
4. Age of pilots who can operate commercial flights has been increased from 60 to 61 years.

Cap on borrowing abroad for funding export credit

*138. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks have to reckon with a cap on borrowing abroad for funding export credit;

(b) whether considering the substantial increase in export credit in foreign currency, a prudential limit could be prescribed to allow banks to borrow abroad for this purpose;

(c) whether a working group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India has given its report, if so the details thereof;

(d) whether the outstanding export credit in foreign currency has shot up and outstanding export credit in rupees has come down, if so, the details thereof for the last three financial years; and

(e) the action taken to resolve the discrepancy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) At present, there is no cap on the banks' borrowings from abroad for the purpose of extending export credit in foreign currency.

In view of the increase in borrowings by banks from abroad to finance export credit in foreign currency, a Working Group to review export credit appointed by RBI has *inter-alia* made a recommendation that from a prudential point of view there was a need to look into whether a regulatory limit could be prescribed, upto which banks could be allowed to borrow from abroad for the purpose. The report submitted by the Working Group in May, 2005 has been placed in the public domain on RBI web site-www, rbi.*org.in* inviting views/comments from the public.

Analysis of the Export Credit statistics reveal that there has been an increase in the export credit in foreign currency as compared to rupee credit during the last three years. Details of outstanding Export Credit in Rupees as well as in Foreign currency are given below:

(Rs. crore)

Outstanding as on 31st March	Rupee Credit	Foreign currency credit
2003	37144	12512
2004	38893	25244
2005	40531	34981

The demand for export credit in rupees is low and that of foreign currency high in view of cost advantage of foreign currency credit over the export credit in rupees. The situation is reviewed from time to time and keeping in view the exposure of banks to foreign currency export credits and the demand for such credit by exporters, policy measure are taken by the RBI.